

# **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Janet Bramley

DATE: November 17, 2000

RE: CRT Clients in Trouble with the Law: January 1999 – June 2000

This is the fifth in a series of reports on the rate at which CRT clients get into trouble with the law on a month-by-month basis. (Previous reports were distributed on December 3 and 30, 1999, and March 31 and June 23, 2000.) As you know, the rate at which consumers of mental health services get into trouble with the law is increasingly recognized as an important indicator of mental health program performance. Part of that interest grows out of a concern that the implementation of managed care could lead to increased criminal justice involvement by consumers (or former consumers) of mental health services. For that reason, we plan to compare rates of criminal justice involvement before the implementation of managed care in CRT programs with rates of criminal justice involvement after the implementation of managed care. We will keep you posted on the results as we begin to analyze data for the two years prior to managed care.

As in previous analyses, two data sets were used to produce the information reported here. Information on clients served by CRT programs during the period under examination came from Monthly Service Reports provided by community service providers to the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services. In conformity with managed care CRT eligibility criteria, active CRT clients for this analysis include all clients who were assigned to the CRT program and had received at least one service from the CRT program during the month under examination or during one of the previous two months. The active CRT caseload for June, for instance, includes all CRT clients who received at least one service from their CRT program during April, May, or June.

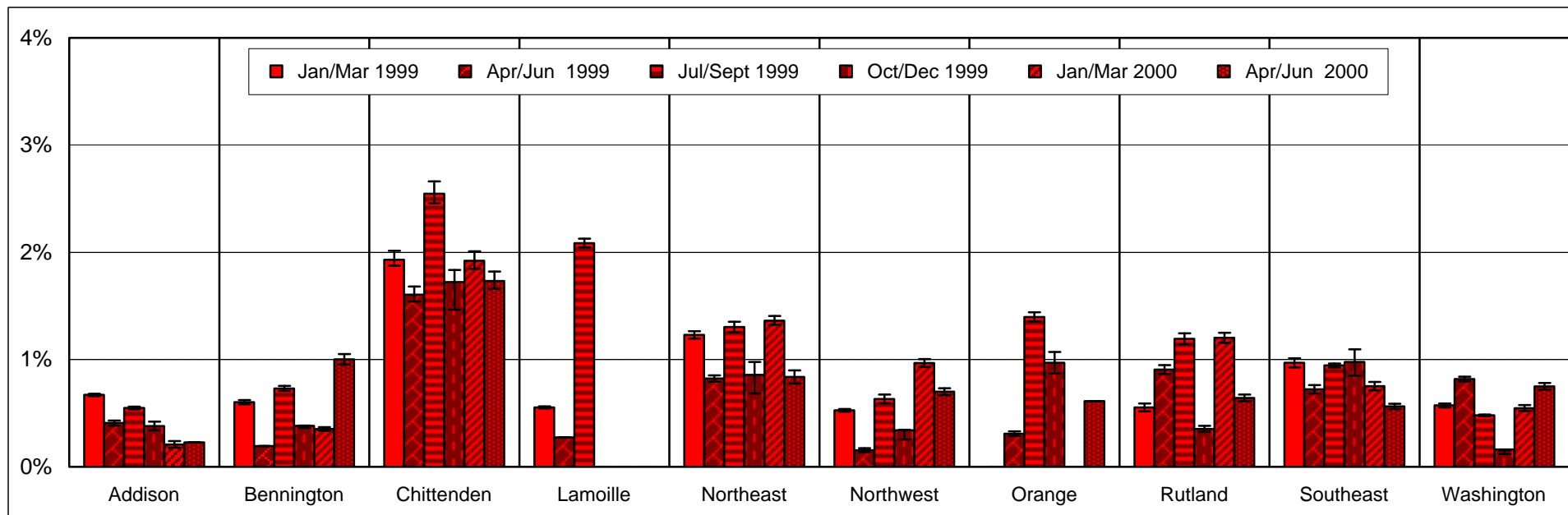
Page Two

The District Court Filings database maintained by the Vermont Center for Justice Research provided basic information on all individuals who were charged with a crime in a Vermont District Court during the period under examination. Because the mental health and criminal justice data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to measure the number of people who were represented in both data sets. The rate at which CRT clients got into trouble with the law was calculated for each month and each CRT program by measuring the overlap between a data set that included all active CRT clients for a month and a data set that included all criminal charges for residents of the service area during the same month.

The attached graph and table provide an overview of the proportion of CRT clients who are charged with a crime on a quarterly basis for January 1999 through June 2000. The rate of criminal justice involvement reported for each quarter is the average monthly rate at which active consumers were charged with a crime. As you will see, the statewide rates were quite consistent, averaging between .6% and .8% of all CRT consumers charged with a crime each month. The rates for the larger providers were fairly consistent over time; the rates for the smaller providers were more volatile. Chittenden County had consistently high rates; Addison, Bennington, Northwest, and Washington had consistently low rates.

We look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analysis of this growing data set. Please send your comments and suggestions to [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us) or call 802-241-2638.

# CRT CLIENTS IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: Percent Charged with a Crime: Monthly Average by Quarter January 1999 - June 2000



Clinic	Monthly Averages 1999								Monthly Averages 2000			
	Jan/Mar	95% CI	Apr/June	95% CI	Jul/Sept	95% CI	Oct/Dec	95% CI	Jan/Mar	95% CI	Apr/June	95% CI
Addison	0.67%	(0.66-0.68%)	0.41%	(0.39-0.43%)	0.55%	(0.54-0.56%)	0.38%	(0.34-0.42%)	0.21%	(0.18-0.24%)	0.23%	(0.23-0.23%)
Bennington	0.60%	(0.58-0.62%)	0.19%	(0.19-0.19%)	0.73%	(0.71-0.75%)	0.38%	(0.36-0.38%)	0.35%	(0.34-0.37%)	1.00%	(0.95-1.05%)
Chittenden	1.93%	(1.87-2.02%)	1.60%	(1.54-1.68%)	2.55%	(2.46-2.66%)	1.72%	(1.46-1.83%)	1.92%	(1.85-2.01%)	1.73%	(1.66-1.82%)
Lamoille	0.55%	(0.54-0.56%)	0.27%	(0.27-0.27%)	2.09%	(2.04-2.14%)	0.00%		0.00%		0.00%	
Northeast	1.23%	(1.2-1.26%)	0.82%	(0.79-0.85%)	1.30%	(1.27-1.34%)	0.86%	(0.68-0.98%)	1.36%	(1.32-1.41%)	0.84%	(0.78-0.9%)
Northwest	0.53%	(0.51-0.54%)	0.15%	(0.14-0.17%)	0.63%	(0.61-0.66%)	0.34%	(0.26-0.35%)	0.97%	(0.93-1%)	0.70%	(0.67-0.73%)
Orange	0.00%		0.31%	(0.29-0.33%)	1.40%	(1.36-1.43%)	0.97%	(0.87-1.07%)	0.00%		0.61%	(0.61-0.61%)
Rutland	0.55%	(0.52-0.59%)	0.91%	(0.87-0.95%)	1.19%	(1.25-1.36%)	0.35%	(0.33-0.38%)	1.20%	(1.15-1.25%)	0.64%	(0.61-0.67%)
Southeast	0.97%	(0.93-1.01%)	0.72%	(0.68-0.76%)	0.95%	(0.9-0.99%)	0.98%	(0.85-1.1%)	0.75%	(0.71-0.79%)	0.56%	(0.54-0.59%)
Washington	0.57%	(0.55-0.59%)	0.82%	(0.8-0.84%)	0.48%	(0.47-0.49%)	0.16%	(0.15-0.12%)	0.55%	(0.52-0.57%)	0.75%	(0.72-0.78%)
State	0.76%		0.62%		1.19%		0.61%		0.73%		0.71%	